

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 26, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MITCHELL, of Oregon, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 956.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 956) for the relief of Sophia Sparks and Julia C. Sparks, have considered the same and report as follows:

The facts out of which this claim arises are recited in great detail in House Report No. 1001, made by the House Committee on Claims to accompany the bill (H. R. 956) which passed the House May 18, 1896, and, as recited therein, is for sundry supplies furnished to the United States Naval Academy, not paid for, and payment for which is recommended by the Secretary of the Navy.

From the facts so fully recited in said House Report No. 1001 (copy of which is submitted), your committee concur in the conclusions reached and recommendations made therein, and report back said bill (H. R. 956) and recommend that it do pass.

[House Report No. 1001, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 956) for the relief of Sophia and Julia C. Sparks, have duly considered the same and submit the following report:

The facts out of which this bill arises are in substance as follows:

Sophia Sparks and Julia C. Sparks, the claimants named in this bill, are the sole heirs and surviving children of Edward Sparks, who died at Annapolis, Md., in 1868, and who, during his lifetime, was a storekeeper at the United States Naval Academy in said city and State.

At sundry dates between January 15, 1863, and July 10, 1866, said Edward Sparks furnished to said Naval Academy sundry supplies, consisting of scientific, text, blank, and other books; histories, grammars, Bowditch tables, atlases, geographies, surveying and other instruments, scales, rulers, drawing paper, pens, towels, soap, brooms, pails, shades and fixtures for gas burners, and other miscellaneous articles for the public use of said Academy, aggregating a total value of \$670.58, all duly certified in triplicate vouchers issued therefor, reciting the name and value of each article and the date when same were so furnished, said certificate reciting that said "supplies, so furnished, were suited to the ends in view, and charged for at reasonable rates," and on July 10, 1866, the same were duly signed by the secretary of said Academy, and on the same date were duly approved by the superintendent in charge of said Naval Academy, and in triplicate.

Thereafter two copies of each of said vouchers, so certified and approved, being in the possession of the Navy Department, said Sparks made frequent demands upon

the United States for the payment of the sums of money so due him therefor; but he was never paid the same because of a want of appropriation of money with which to pay the same.

After the death of said Edward Sparks, his children duly brought these claims to the attention of Congress, through their then Representative, and who, on February 18, 1874, filed the petition of said children in the House, praying payment, but from then till now said petition has ever remained of record in the files of the House unacted upon.

A copy of a similar bill (H. R. 5472) was, on January 30, 1894, duly referred to the Navy Department for its examination and report, and by it was, in February, 1894, also duly referred to the superintendent of said Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., for similar purposes.

The correspondence had in these premises is now in the record of this case, and shows that said articles were so duly furnished at the dates as recited in said vouchers; that the same were never paid for, and under date of February 16, 1894, the Secretary of the Navy reported favorably as to said claim.

The United States having received in due manner the articles furnished by said Edward Sparks and no payment having heretofore been made therefor, payment should now be made to his said surviving children in the sum of \$670.58.

And we recommend that said bill do pass.